

Saving Freedom

We can stop America s Slide into Socialism

By Jim DeMint, U. S. Senator

277 pages; Fidelis books, 2009

(page 4) While conservatives should not naively romanticize Reagan as the perfect leader, we can claim an important distinction between Reagan and other presidents of this generation: he made it clear the government was not the answer to our problems or the means to our prosperity.

(page 5) We have been told we can tax, regulate, and sue our businesses more than any other country in the world and still be competitive in a global economy.

(page 9) Winston Churchill said, The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.

(page 10) One of the primary causes of the growth of socialism is the blurring of the lines between the role of government and the proper functions of a free society.

(page 12) Ronald Reagan said, Our natural, unalienable rights are now considered to be a dispensation of government, and freedom has never been so fragile, so close to slipping from our grasp as it is at this moment. . . . You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or we ll sentence them to take the last step into a thousand years of darkness.

(page 22-23) In 1976, President Carter created the Department of Education, which greatly expanded the federal role in our schools. The quality of education for our nation as a whole has declined ever since. Carter also stopped the building of new nuclear plants and shut down the recycling of nuclear fuel. His good intentions for the environment backfired as America increased its use of coal while Europe reduced coal emissions with nuclear power.

(page 24) The second President Bush had some good ideas, but he turned out to be a weak negotiator with the Democrats. Wasteful spending and earmarks expanded dramatically under Bush II and the Republican majority.

(page 27) Democrats had mismanaged government for years, and Republicans were elected to change Washington. It turned out that Washington changed us.

(page 27) Republicans, who are supposed to carry the banner of freedom, betrayed the trust of the American people. . . . By 2008, it was hard to tell the Republicans from the Democrats.

(page 28) Why is socialism a threat to America? Because it doesn't work and it never has! Despite its utopian promises, socialism undermines every foundational principle of a free society.

(page 29) & but the socialists definition of equality is not equality of opportunities but an equality of outcomes.

(page 33) Ironically, there is considerable evidence that the Depression was caused not by the failure of capitalism but by the mismanagement of our currency by the newly formed Federal Reserve.

(page 40) Socialism begins with envy of the rich and the temptation to use government force to take from the rich and give to the poor &. Their real goal is to centralize power on behalf of a few elites who consider themselves uniquely qualified to manage society.

(page 41) History has proven that it is impossible for governments to manage the economic and social structure of society without diminishing economic progress and severely restricting the freedoms of individuals &. When government attempts to insulate the people from the normal risks of life, it diminishes the energy and productivity that come from work, struggle, and persistence.

(page 44) Freedom and socialism cannot exist together; they are incompatible.

(page 56) Freedom is a threat to power and control. Those who seek power (even to do good) must solidify their control by restricting freedom.

(page 68) Slavery was government sponsored and an obvious violation of our founding principles &. Slavery and segregation in America were not the fault of freedom, but the fault of government policies antithetical to freedom.

(page 70) When you hear a bill passed with bipartisan support , you can bet your bottom dollar it expanded the role of government in some area of your life.

(page 74) When government tries to remove the risks, rewards, and consequences of decision making, it destroys freedom.

(page 79) Medicare demonstrates why socialized medicine does not work &. Medicare is built on debt and dependency.

(page 80) THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR DESPITE ALL THE BEST INTENTIONS IN THE WORLD: THERE IS NO EXAMPLE OF ANY EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM.

(page 85) President Thomas Jefferson said, The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield

and government to gain ground.

(page 86) The founding fathers knew that historically all democratic governments grew until they consumed the freedom of the people and ultimately collapsed under their own weight.

(page 93) The people who blocked reforms and received the most campaign contributions from the guilty parties were the ones in charge of negotiating the irresponsible bailouts.

(page 95) Because of our large and growing debt, America can no longer control its own destiny.

(page 125) Taxes take money out of the private economy and permanently increase the cost of government. Money left in the private economy is either spent or saved, both of which improve the overall economy.

(page 126) Higher taxes don't solve problems; they weaken the private sector economy and grow the size of government.

(page 131) An objective review of world and American history provides undeniable evidence that religion---far from being just a derivative of freedom---has been the primary catalyst and preserver of American's unique freedoms and success.

(page 134) Not only were science and religion compatible, they were inseparable---the rise of science was achieved by deeply religious Christian scholars.

(page 139) In Colonial America, Biblical tenets were not practiced by all, but they were translated into values, principles, and policies by pervasive institutions that established societal standards.

(page 142) Alexis de Tocqueville said, When a people's religion is destroyed & then not only will they let their freedom be taken from them, but often they actually hand it over themselves.

(page 153) President Dwight Eisenhower said, Without God, there could be no American form of Government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, the most basic, expression of Americanism.

(page 155) Religion is a threat to socialists because it creates a cultural authority that supersedes government authority.

(page 156) President John Adams said, Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

(page 184) It is difficult for elected officials to accept the fact government cannot eliminate sorrow, sickness, ignorance, joblessness, bigotry, inequity, and other societal problems.

(page 192) Freedom demands that individuals and societies shape their own lives and future. This is not a role the government can or should play.

(page 193) Laws are not legitimate because they are legislated. They are legitimate because they are true to an enduring constitution.

(page 199) Liberty means self-reliance, it means resolution, it means the capacity for doing without &. The average man doesn't want to be free. He wants to be safe. H.L. Mencken

(page 200) Freedom does not work when individuals cannot be responsible for themselves,

(page 215) Two weeks after the Senate rejected the no strings attached bailout of American auto companies, President Bush circumvented the Congress and the law and gave them money intended only for financial institutions.

(page 218) My point is this: the high standard of living Americans enjoy comes from successful businesses, not big government. The government produces nothing, and every dollar our government spends comes from profitable businesses.

(page 235) It is not the federal government's responsibility to run our lives; it is our responsibility to run the federal government.

(page 236) Anyone who believes the federal government is currently operating according to constitutional principles and the rule of law is delusional.